



PTA CORNER

BY DEBBIE WILSON, COLLINS ELEMENTARY PTA PRESIDENT

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2010-2011**

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Can you believe that school is almost over? Where has the time gone? We have a lot going on in April. If you ordered any item from the cookie dough fundraiser, it will be in the cafeteria on Tuesday, April 19 for pick-up from 2:30 until 6pm. PLEASE make plans to get your items during this time because we do not have the freezer space to hold unclaimed orders.

I would like to say a few things about that crazy storm the other day. This is not because I have to, it's because I want to. On Thursday, March 31st, we had extremely bad weather come through Riverview. During the storm, I was working at Collins in the cafeteria. When the storm was at its worst, I was looking around the cafeteria and just watching what was going on. Mr. Sims got on the intercom and said, there would be no further travel through the hallways and to other parts of the school. He came into the cafeteria on numerous occasions to see that the steps that he had put into place were being carried out. He left again in the rain to secure other parts of the school. I saw, at different times, teachers walking toward a student who looked a little nervous or was crying about the big scary storm that they didn't quite understand, but could see and definitely hear. Then, I saw those same teachers walking away from the child only when they started to calm down, laugh or just smile. These are things I would not have been able to see if I was not there. Now trust me when I say I would have been one of those parents in the office demanding... wait...asking for my child because I knew that she would not be safer than with me!!!

I hope I can ease the mind of at least one parent that was at their office desk, at home or just not able to be with their child on that crazy rainy day. Let me say, that after being in the cafeteria and then helping in the front office escorting students safely to their parents or other destinations; Collins was one of the safest places to be.

So in the future, when there is another bad storm or scary situation, please feel a little more at ease knowing that there are arms around your children figuratively speaking, when yours can't be.

To Mr. Sims, Mrs. Madill and all the teachers and staff thank you very much for keeping our children safe.

The PTA would like to send best wishes to the students who are taking the FCAT this month. You will do great!!! Also, we would like to wish everyone a safe and happy spring break.

Sincerely,
Debbie Wilson
PTA President








COLLINS ELEMENTARY
12424 Summerfield Blvd.
Riverview, FL 33579
(813) 672-5400

Steve Sims	Principal
Teri Madill	Asst. Principal
Sue Chapin	Guidance
David Kincade	Social Worker

Helpful Information

- To report your child's absence please call 813-672-5400 x 1
- No student can be signed out after 1:30pm
- Panther Post is published in 9 issues (Sept-May). It is a publication of Collins PTA.
- E-mail submissions and advertisements by the 3rd Friday of each month to marketing@collinspta.net.

April 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 Terrific Kids/ WOTM Awards	8	9
10	11 FCAT 3-5 Begins 	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 Cookie Dough Pickup 2:30-6	20	21 Field Day 	22 No School	23
24 	25 Spring Break	26 Spring Break 	27 Spring Break	28 Spring Break 	29 Spring Break	30



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PRINCIPAL'S CORNER BY MR. STEVEN SIMS



Hello Panther Parents,

Wow it's unbelievable how fast we are zipping through the school year!

As we enter the last nine weeks of the year, there are a few dates that I would like to remind you of:

March 28-April 1 SAT testing Grade 1 & 2

March 31 Report Card Pick-up Night

April 11- April 21 FCAT testing Grades 3, 4, & 5

April 25-April 29 Spring Break

*Please remember to get plenty of rest during testing and arrive to school on time during testing days.

As always, thank you for all you do to make Collins a GREAT school!

Go Panthers!!!

Steven Sims
Principal



February Perseverance Awards

sponsored by MiMi's Café, Casper's McDonalds, and Ruby Tuesdays

Ayan Barnaby	Ceasar Esquivel	Gianna Palacios	Jenna Samudio
Sebastian Bermudez	Katie Ezell	Lauren Parziale	Nathaniel Schenke
Brandon Bodon	Conor Gollop	Shivan Patel	Kalley Semmelmann
Azahria Boykin	Max Gonzales	NAtali Pierce	Balin Simmons
Nathan Bryant	Bella Herrera	Alizehia Pimentel	Maya Smith
Mattison Burriss	Elijah Irizzarry	Xavier Quinones	Kyra Spradley
Aidan Cervetti	Talia Janos	Jan Cris Recart-Gomez	Megan Talley
Victoria Clark	Megan Martin	Mason Reid	Tyriq Thornton
Sopia Culbertson	Mariana Nazario	Koen Reimert	Paige Wagner
Matt Cutcher	Jennifer Oakey	Zachary Reviere	Amanda Walker
Tazarria Dixon	Anna O'Neal	Frida Rodill	Nina Watford
Kierstin doll	Ashialy Ortega	Sophia Rogan	Shane Williams

FROM THE GUIDANCE CORNER

March was another exciting month for our students at Collins Elementary. Our 5th grade peer mediators and our 4th grade mediators in training had the wonderful opportunity to attend a team building day at Camp Cristina. The mediators participated in a variety of team building activities along with challenge by choice. On behalf of the mediators, we would like to send our heartfelt thanks to our phenomenal PTA for this fabulous opportunity.

As we begin our last few months of school, please keep in mind that reading is a lifetime adventure that can open so many doors. There are five main building blocks that can help your child be a successful reader. Remember, you are your child's first teacher and that reading does not usually come naturally to a child. It takes lots of practice. Phonemic awareness is the first steppingstone in learning to read. Read aloud to your child – play word games – sing songs and say poems, rhymes, etc. – focus with your children the sounds in a word. It is important for your child to recognize familiar written words and decode and identify unknown ones. Encourage your child to read to you, look for words around you, practice writing – drawing can help make it more fun! You can also help your child with fluency by rereading familiar books, listening to a book on tape, reading aloud to your child, make lists of common words, and gently help your child with words misread. Teach your child one new word a day with its meaning. Help break the word apart and then use it often when speaking. Give your child a dictionary as a special present. Help them discover the magic of how to sound out a word, break it into parts, its meaning(s), use in a sentence. Talk together and explore new subjects and interests. Make sure you ask questions as you read a story to your child. Have your child compare stories and retell the story to you. A great question to end the night with is "What have you learned today by reading?"

The word for April is *Courageous/Good Sport!* At Collins, we want our students to practice *doing the right thing in the face of difficulty and following their conscience instead of the crowd!* We help our students to use their potential to the fullest. Just as you do, we encourage our students to *strive for their best in all situations!* Please discuss with your child/children what being *Courageous/Good Sport* means throughout the month of April. Please feel free to use your *Courageous/Good Sport* ideas from the monthly calendar.

Remember, too, it is never too early for our students to begin creating their career path starting with career awareness. Talk with your child about family careers – create a career family tree. This will share family values, personal abilities, skills, interests, and other fascinating information. You might want to share about any stereotyping that was involved in your career path. Discuss with them the requirements necessary for and on the job. It is important for our students to learn how to make decisions, set goals, understand planning, and develop interests. This will help make the path to the world of work smoother.

Our 4th grade mediators will be soon be finished training. Mediation is such a great way to solve conflicts and students sent to mediation may gain lifelong skills and how to better solve conflicts. This is even more important in today's world! Our mediators are always fine-tuning their talents by helping our students to win/win in situations. They have developed fantastic mediation skills, useful throughout life!

Please remember to let our supporters – Mimi's Café, Sun City Pizza Hut, McDonald's (Caspers Corp.) Ruby Tuesdays, Bob Evans, and SweetBay know how much we truly appreciate their support.

We are so glad that you are part of our school. You are the Best!!!!

Sue Chapin Counselor

FEBRUARY TERRIFIC KIDS

Sponsored by the S.C.C. Kiwanis Club, Casper's McDonalds, Bob Evans, & SweetBay

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Erienne Aberin | Alex Guillory | Ethan Lyons | Vincent Reggi |
| Madison Alfect | Isaiah Hippard | Payton Madill | Ginamarie Rescigno |
| Alec Bahr | Garret Howell | Tyler Mangrum | Aimee Petit |
| Sirra Boodhoo | Jordan Jones | Josiah Mentore | Madelina Robu |
| Jontavious Bryant | Kevis Jones | Mathew Metcalf | Josue Rosa |
| Nicholas Bryant | Kendall King | Sasha Novikov | Hudson Schneller |
| Anthony Bunn | Jake Kittel | Ricky Nguyen | Colby Shrader |
| Michael Canizares | Abbey Koedel | Lauren O'Donell | Kayla Smith |
| Jared Drada | Ben Kyker | Tayler Oneal | Paolo Soto |
| Jager Garry | Lacey Langley | Savannah Parido | Mikayla Stark |
| Isabela Gonzalez | Trinity Lim | Breanna Patton | Idannys Suarez |
| Jonah Gonzalez | Amaya Livingston-Wilson | Klarissa Prive | Andrew Valetín |



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February Kindergarten Citizens of the Month at Collins Elementary

Sponsored by the SCC Pizza Hut

- Tejas Bhardaway
- Jaylin Brown
- Diego Figueroa
- James Jarboe
- Shimiyah Johnson
- Tyler Little
- Monica Martinez
- Ariana Sawyer



Greetings from Collins Café,

Happy Spring

During Breakfast on March 15-17, each child had a chance to win a gold shamrock coin which was then redeemed at lunch for prizes ranging from pencils, bookmarks, cookies and even ice cream sundaes.

This was not only a fun way to show our students what we serve for Breakfast and Lunch but it also gave us a chance to increase participation.

We would like to wish all our students good luck on their upcoming tests, with that being said, what better way to prepare for the tests that joining us for free breakfast everyday .We always have great choices! Breakfast starts at 7:30. We hope to see you.

Upcoming events, our Easter Egg Contest as well as a Special Lunch with Dad.

With these tough economic times upon us, many more children are receiving free lunch. It is not to late to submit an application to see if you qualify.

As always if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to call me at 672-5400 ext. 227

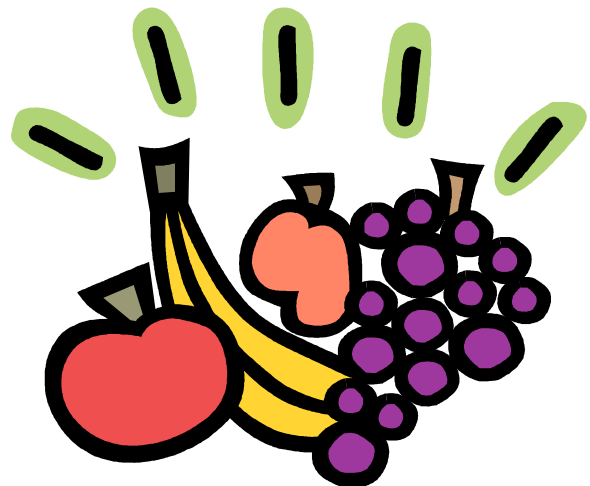
Happy Testing.

Have a wonderful Spring Break!

Till next time.

Susan Paszkowski

SNS Manager



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Orders are due April 6



FIELD DAY!!!

Field day is April 21st. Field Day is an annual event that is loaded with lots of fun, water and games. Please make sure your child brings in a change of clothes. Bathing Suits are NOT permitted. If you would like to volunteer, please make sure you have a volunteer form on file before April 22nd. If you would like to donate supplies we are in need of:

SPONGES, Sponges and MORE sponges

Kool-aid mixes

Bottled water

Beads

Stickers

Cups

First Aid Supplies



April is Autism Awareness Month

Autism affects 1 in 100 children.

Autism is a lifelong neurological disability that affects a person's ability to communicate, understand language, play and socially interact with others. The first signs of autism usually appear as developmental delays before age three.

Every person with autism is different. However, there are some common characteristics of individuals with autism that may occur. Remember that although these are some common characteristics no two persons with autism experience the world or behave in the same way.

- Difficulty in using and understanding language.
- Poorly developed social skills and unusual play with toys.
- Over or under sensitivity to sound, sight, taste, touch, or smell.
- Repetitive behaviors such as spinning objects or rocking.
- Difficulty with changes to surroundings or routines.
- Certain behaviors exhibited to stimulate the senses, such as switching a light on and off repeatedly, or humming loudly.
- Uneven skill development. Some skills are normal or superior for their age while others show significant delay.

Free Screenings for ages birth to five are provided by appointment through FDLRS at (813) 837-7723

In Honor of our students with Autism several of the teachers at Collins will be participating in a High Heel Hike on May 14th to benefit CARD-USF (Center of Autism and Related Disabilities) who provides assistance to the parents and teachers of these amazing kids. If you are interested in supporting this cause please visit www.highheelhike.com and join Team Izzi for a fun and unique walk around Westshore Mall.



A business card for Michele C. McCleary. The card has a pink background with a white horizontal band in the middle. At the top, the text "A Little Xtra Something" is written in a cursive font. Below this, the name "Michele C. McCleary" is printed in blue, followed by the website "www.ALittleXtraSomething.com" and the phone number "813-388-3886". Underneath, it says "Handmade Coffee Cozies, Sleep Masks, & More...". At the bottom, the phrase "...for YOU!" is written in a large, white, cursive font. On the right side of the card, there is a cartoon illustration of a woman with long brown hair, wearing a pink polka-dot shirt, holding a small coffee cup with a colorful cozie.

Being a friend to a kid with autism is one of the best things you can do to help them. You can learn many things from your friend with autism too!

Does autism ever go away?

A kid with autism will have it their whole life. As they grow, they will learn things like reading, math, and spelling that will help them. They will grow up to have jobs, be neighbors, and need friends, just like you.

In the United States about 400,000 people have autism - that's enough people to fill six football stadiums. There are many more people who have autism all over the world. More boys than girls have it. They can be poor, rich, white, black, red, or brown.

The most important thing to remember is that kids with autism are **JUST KIDS!**



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I have a
FRIEND
with autism



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